

that his was an infectious personality touching all whom he met. His legendary sense of humor was a joy and a comfort, adeptly conveying his care, concern and passion for others and it was limitless in its reach into the heart, soul and mind of those who bore witness to this wonderful and selfless man. His love of family and friends formed an unbreakable bond which withstood and weathered all manner of life's success and challenges, those of his own and of his loved ones and friends. This pure and deep love influenced his pledge to each of them to love, support, help and guide them through life, to celebrate their achievements and embrace their challenges. He stood proudly by his family and gave his best so that each would achieve and in so doing, give unto others the best of themselves in service to mankind. He gave so much, yet every sacrifice was meant to empower those whom he loved and in so doing he gained immeasurably in pride, stature and humility. His service to and love of family was a willing sacrifice willingly undertaken and richly rewarded as evidenced by his unabridged pride in all of his family's accomplishments and their resultant service to their communities. Never at a loss for words was Leon, through his humor, his compassion, his leadership, his fierce and determined support and his sheer love of family. This was a man of genuine love and compassion, and in his passing, a true celebration of life was held to remember and hold in highest esteem this man, this father, this husband, this brother and this friend.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask that you join me in honoring the life of a man who leaves behind a record of service that speaks volumes about his life.

HONORING MUHAMMAD ALI ON
THE OCCASION OF HIS 70TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the achievements of Muhammad Ali on the occasion of his 70th birthday, being celebrated by the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health, Keep Memory Alive, and the Muhammad Ali Center at the 2012 Power of Love Gala as they all join together to help alleviate memory, brain and movement disorders.

As a boxer, Muhammad Ali is renowned as the first three-time Heavy Weight Champion of the World with 56 wins, 5 losses, and 37 knockouts. Leading up to his world championships, Mr. Ali won an Olympic Gold Medal, Golden Gloves, and an Amateur Athletic Union Championship. Among the hundreds of accolades, Mr. Ali has received over the years, he has been recognized by Sports Illustrated as "Sportsman of the Century," GQ Magazine as "Athlete of the Century," the BBC as "Sports Personality of the Century," and the World Sports Award for "World Sportsman of the Century."

More than 50 years after winning the Gold Medal at the 1960 Rome Olympics, Muhammad Ali remains an endearing figure of both strength and compassion, known and beloved throughout the world.

Internationally, championing the issues of the developing world has become a major focus of Muhammad's life. For this, he has received many awards and accolades, including Messenger of Peace by the United Nations 1998–2008 for his work with developing nations, Amnesty International's Lifetime Achievement Award, Germany's 2005 Otto Hahn Peace Medal for his involvement in the United Nations and the U.S. Civil Rights Movement, and he was named International Ambassador of Jubilee 2000, a global organization dedicated to relieving debt in developing nations. Muhammad has also been instrumental in providing over 232 million meals to the world's hungry.

In 2005, Muhammad Ali was presented with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our country's highest civilian award, for his life's work. Along with his charitable work around the globe, Muhammad has been dedicated to helping charities at home as well, including the Muhammad Ali Center in Louisville, Kentucky, founded by Muhammad and his wife, Lonnie. The Muhammad Ali Center is a cultural and international education center that is inspired by his ideals. The Center serves as the global hub for championing the six prevailing core values of his life: respect, confidence, conviction, dedication, giving and spirituality. Much more than a place to tell the story of one man's incredible 70-year journey, the Muhammad Ali Center reaches beyond its physical walls to fulfill its mission—in 2012, the Center's activities will ensure that future generations understand and actively adopt Muhammad's core values to create a powerful new movement: Generation Ali.

In addition to his many philanthropic endeavors, Muhammad Ali is also celebrated for the awareness he has brought to Parkinson's disease through his own personal battle with the disease. His aim is to dramatically accelerate the understanding of Parkinson's disease and the pursuit of effective treatments.

As the Representative for Nevada's First Congressional district, it gives me immense pride to celebrate the 70th birthday of Muhammad Ali, the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health, Keep Memory Alive, and the Muhammad Ali Center, as they fight to put memory, brain and movement disorders down for a final 10-count.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately I was absent from the House on Tuesday, February 14th, Wednesday, February 15th, and part of Thursday, February 16th due to a death in my family. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall votes 49, 52–61, 63, 64, 65, 67, and 68, and I would have voted "no" on rollcall votes 50, 51, 62, 66, 69.

HONORING DR. PAUL STANTON

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary career and work of Dr. Paul Stanton, president of East Tennessee State University for the past fifteen years. Dr. Stanton first came to ETSU in 1985, as director of the Division of Peripheral Vascular Surgery for the Veterans Administration Medical Center and ETSU's James H. Quillen College of Medicine. Over the next twelve years he devoted himself to ETSU, and for his dedication and hard work, he was named president in 1997. Under Dr. Stanton's leadership, ETSU markedly increased its percentage of residential students, built two large new dorms, and celebrated its centennial anniversary. Under his stewardship Princeton Review has named ETSE as one of America's best value colleges, and one of the top schools in the Southeast. Speaking as a physician, his most important achievement may have been the construction and completion of the Bill Gatton College of Pharmacy. During Dr. Stanton's tenure, the Quillen College of Medicine has consistently been named as one of the top rural medical schools in the country, educating the next generation of physicians who more often than not stay and practice in East Tennessee, in addition to serving similar rural communities around the country.

Through his sound leadership, Dr. Stanton, has strengthened the foundation of an important educational institution in East Tennessee. My daughter Whitney is a proud alumna of this distinguished public university.

Along with providing transformative leadership for one of East Tennessee's most important academic institutions, Dr. Paul Stanton has long been a devoted and caring physician, family man, grandfather, teacher, scientist, mentor, true gentleman and a fellow Methodist. Throughout it all his beautiful and terrific wife Nancy has supported him and undertaken a great deal of community involvement herself. Though I know he will miss ETSU, I am sure Dr. Stanton will find a way to keep himself busy between golf, grandchildren, and continued service to the community.

I thank Dr. Stanton for his service and wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES B. RENACCI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 50, Wednesday afternoon, I was participating in an important subcommittee meeting and was unable to make the first vote of the series. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."